On the 25th April 1907, Princess Setu Parvathi Bhai, the Junior Rani, was married to M. R. Ry. Ravi Varma Avergal, B. A., Koil Tampuran.

3. Land Revenue.—The year was a normal one from an agricultural point of view. The net current land revenue demand rose from Rs. 25,26,959 in 1081 to Rs. 29,06,033 in 1082. Out of the increase of Rs. 3,79,104, the introduction of settlement rates in 7 taluks accounted for about Rs. 1,61,000, the remaining two and odd lakhs of increase being mostly due to the fact that the paddy revenue which, previous to the abolition of taxation in kind, was credited in the accounts at 6 chs. per para, has since been credited at 11 chs. per para, the latter being the new commutation rate fixed by Government. Out of the net demand of Rs. 29,06,033, the collections amounted to Rs. 28,61,775, *i. e.* about 98½ per cent. of the demand was collected, as against about 95 per cent. in the previous year.

In regard to the arrears of land revenue, the demand for the year was Rs. 3,75,514, out of which a sum of Rs. 1,11,282 was collected and Rs. 96,925 written off the accounts, leaving an arrear balance of Rs. 1,67,307 at the end of the year. Out of this balance, a sum of about Rs. 95,000 is said to refer to disputed items. Steps are being taken to enquire into the reasons for the pendency of the disputes, which account for nearly a lakh of rupees of arrears.

You are aware that Government sanctioned some time ago a scheme for the conversion into money of that portion of the land tax, which had been hitherto paid in kind. This scheme came into full operation during the year under report, and from the information before Government, the change has been attended with the most beneficial results.

4. Survey.—The cadastral survey of the State having been completed in 1081, the work of the Survey Department was confined during the year to certain special and miscellaneous surveys. The annual expenditure for survey has been reduced from about Rs. 82,000 to about Rs. 30,000, the saving effected being thus a little over half a lakh of rupees. A small and efficient survey staff will, in the opinion of Government, always be necessary in the State.

5. Revenue Settlement.—The revenue settlement continued to make progress. In two taluks the settlement of which was over in 1081, the new rates were introduced in 1082, and the settlement of five fresh taluks was finished and the new rates introduced in them during the year. The result in all the seven taluks was to raise the land revenue demand from Rs. 4,53,192 to Rs. 6,13,974, an increase of about 35 per cent. I take this opportunity to convey to you the assurance of Government that the work of the Settlement Department is being carefully watched and effective action is being taken to ensure that its operations are finished without undue delay. A capable officer, having the confidence of Government, is now at the head of the department and Government feel assured that the interests of the people as well as of the public revenue are safe in his hands.

6. Land Records Maintenance.—Government took steps during the year to organize a land records staff for the purpose of keeping survey records up to date. The charges on this account for all the 18 taluks already settled amount to about Rs. 11,000 per annum. Government have reasons to apprehend that, in

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